



Darling Downs

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2023–24

The 2023–24 Queensland Budget supports **good jobs**, provides **better services** for all Queenslanders and protects our **great lifestyle**. On the Darling Downs it provides:

\$1.1B on infrastructure for productivity enhancing infrastructure and capital works, estimated to support around **3,000** jobs in this region.

\$1.3B on health for the Darling Downs and South West Hospital and Health Services.

\$64.2M on education to maintain, improve and upgrade schools on the Darling Downs.

\$311.6M for disaster recovery and betterment projects to local government assets impacted by disaster events between 2019 and 2023. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.

\$27.9M for social housing to expand and improve social housing on the Darling Downs.

\$6.1M for Skilling Queenslanders for Work to fund more training opportunities and increase workforce participation.

Delivering for the **DARLING DOWNS REGION**



Jobs and Regional Growth Fund

9 agreements entered to help private sector projects create employment and economic growth in regional Queensland, which has supported \$123 million capital expenditure and 384 jobs on the Darling Downs.

(February 2017 to April 2023)



Building our Regions

\$55.4 million allocated to 30 projects for critical infrastructure on the Darling Downs, supporting an estimated 399 jobs. This has leveraged further financial co-contributions statewide of over \$539 million from local governments, the Australian Government, and other organisations, with a total capital expenditure value of over \$887 million.

(March 2015 to April 2024)



Back to Work

\$14 million of payments have been paid to 600 employers on the Darling Downs to employ 1,125 eligible unemployed jobseekers.

(July 2016 to April 2023)



Advance Queensland

\$32 million in grants awarded to 378 applicants to drive innovation, build on our natural advantages, and help raise the Darling Downs' profile as an attractive investment destination.

(July 2015 to March 2023)

Delivering better services for the Darling Downs region

Growth from March 2015 to March 2023



693 extra nurses
up **39.5%**



101 extra teacher aides
up **13.8%**



71 extra ambulance officers
up **26.1%**



65 extra firefighters
up **63.6%**

Delivering for the DARLING DOWNS

Queensland

Good jobs
Better services
Great lifestyle



1 Mitchell auxiliary fire and rescue station upgrade and refurbishment



\$2.2 million in 2023-24 to complete the upgrade and refurbishment of the auxiliary Mitchell Fire and Rescue Station to provide refreshed, front-line fire and emergency response capability for the community of Mitchell and surrounding areas. The upgraded facility will future-proof our emergency response and ensure the community of Mitchell continues to receive the critical services they deserve. Additionally, the works will support 6 local jobs.

3 Dalby police facility upgrade



\$10.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$19 million total spend to complete the upgrade of the police facility at Dalby. The replacement police facility at Dalby has been designed with all the features and specifications needed for a modern policing facility and will accommodate the current staffing level with room for future growth. This facility will support frontline policing services to deliver safe and secure communities and build a safer Queensland. The project will support 55 jobs.

5 New Toowoomba Hospital



\$50 million in 2023-24 out of a \$1.3 billion total spend for the construction of the new Toowoomba Hospital, delivering around 118 additional overnight beds. It will provide timely access to treatment and reduced need for patients to travel outside the region for more specialist care. The new hospital will include additional beds and treatment spaces across medical, surgical, maternity, intensive care and coronary care. Construction of the new hospital is expected to support around 3,100 jobs. Completion is expected in the second half of 2027. Part of the Capacity Expansion Program.

2 Chinchilla Battery



\$18.5 million in 2023-24 out of a \$110.7 million total spend for battery storage investment. The Chinchilla Battery is the first project in the Kogan Creek Clean Energy Hub. The Chinchilla Battery will store wind and solar energy throughout the day, to be distributed to Queensland households during the peak evening periods, the equivalent for 30,000 homes, for 2 hours. Part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

4 Oakey State High School



\$7.2 million in 2023-24 out of a \$9.1 million total spend to deliver a new single court multi-purpose hall with a kinesiology lab, staff work rooms, store rooms, amenities and a kiosk. This facility will enable activities like indoor sports, performing arts and school functions, and provide meeting facilities for the local community. The project is supporting an average of 9 jobs across 3 years from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

6 Millmerran Multi-Purpose Health Service



\$17 million in 2023-24 out of a \$29.9 million total spend to replace aged infrastructure at the Millmerran Multi-Purpose Health Service facility. The replacement Millmerran Multi-Purpose Health Service facility will comprise of an 8-bed inpatient unit, 5-bed residential aged care space, and acute and non-acute spaces. A replacement helipad will also be built on the site, with the existing pad making way for new facilities. The new facility will deliver more contemporary clinical spaces, improving the patient and staff experience. Part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program.



Wambo Wind Farm powers jobs and a greener future

Queensland's transformation to a low carbon emissions future is a step closer with the Queensland Government's \$192.5 million investment in the Wambo Wind Farm near Dalby.

The project is set to deliver 252 megawatts of cheaper, cleaner energy and prevent the emission of 1.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year after opening in 2025. It will support more than 200 construction jobs throughout the project and a further 20 ongoing operations and maintenance roles, while boosting Queensland's development opportunities in the renewables industry.

Queensland publicly-owned energy generator Stanwell Corporation will acquire a 50 per cent share of the project through a joint venture with Cubico Sustainable Investments, thanks to funding support from the government's \$4.5 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.

Providing access to affordable, reliable energy supports the government's commitment to achieve 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035 to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Delivering for the DARLING DOWNS REGION

Explore the
Budget Map



- 
Injune Multi-Purpose Health Service
 \$710,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$1.7 million total spend to extend the Aged Care Wing to support additional aged care beds.
- 
Roma Flood Mitigation Project - Stage 2
 \$245,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$8.3 million total spend to add flood mitigation measures and provide a greater resilience against future flood events for the Roma community. Part of the Building our Regions Program.
- 
Westhaven Aged Care Facility
 \$1.8 million in 2023-24 out of a \$2.7 million total spend for the upgrade of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and standby emergency generator.
- 
Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program
 \$507,171 in 2023-24 to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage values in the Bunya Mountains. Part of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, providing \$27 million statewide in 2023-24.
- 
Brigalow hydrogen ready gas peaking plant
 \$33.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$190 million total investment in Queensland's first hydrogen-ready gas peaking plant. Part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.
- 
Kogan Creek Power Station enhancements, overhauls and refurbishment
 \$20.1 million in 2023-24 for enhancement and refurbishment to ensure the plant's long-term reliability and safety.
- 
Kogan Renewable Hydrogen Project
 \$1.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$15 million total spend for construction of a renewable hydrogen demonstration plant and refueling facilities at Kogan Creek Clean Energy Hub in the Western Downs. Part of the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund.
- 
Kogan North Gas Fields development
 \$29.6 million in 2023-24 for the development and maintenance of gas assets to support firming in the transformation of the energy system.
- 
Tara Hospital
 \$9.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$16.3 million total spend for the replacement of aging infrastructure utilising standardised design to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment. Part of the Building Rural and Remote Health Program - Phase 2.
- 
InterLinkSQ Intermodal Terminal
 \$16.1 million in 2023-24 for delivery of a new road and rail intermodal facility to improve productivity in the transfer of freight between trucks and trains, supporting industry. Part of the Building Acceleration Fund, delivered in partnership with the private sector.
- 
Gatton Smart Farm
 \$2.6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$9.1 million total spend to upgrade infrastructure and equipment to support horticulture productivity and profitability. Part of the Queensland Smart Farm Initiative, delivered in partnership with the private sector.
- 
Drayton replacement permanent and auxiliary fire and rescue station
 \$2.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$7.5 million total spend to continue replacement of the permanent and auxiliary fire and rescue station at Drayton.
- 
Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline
 \$13.4 million in 2023-24 out of a \$273.1 million total spend to construct the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline to supply water to the residents of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton and provide a drought contingency for Warwick and surrounding communities.
- 
Pittsworth State High School
 \$5.7 million in 2023-24 out of a \$9.2 million total spend to construct additional specialist classrooms and deliver a new hall facility.
- 
Gore Highway (Toowoomba - Millmerran) and Toowoomba - Athol Road
 \$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$23.4 million total spend towards improving safety on the Gore Highway (Toowoomba - Millmerran) and Toowoomba - Athol Road.
- 
St George Hospital
 \$10.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$16.5 million total spend for the replacement of infrastructure to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment.
- 
Warwick State High School
 \$5.6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$8.9 million total spend to deliver a new hall facility.
- 
Whetstone rural fire brigade station
 \$450,000 in 2023-24 to upgrade Whetstone rural fire brigade station.
- 
Goondiwindi Hospital
 \$3.6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$8.7 million total spend for the remediation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and main switchboard replacement.
- 
Inglewood Reservoir roof replacement
 \$277,200 in 2023-24 out of a \$420,000 total spend to replace the roof on the Inglewood treated drinking water reservoir. Part of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.
- 
Dirranbandi P-10 State School
 \$405,000 in 2023-24 out of a \$808,000 total spend to refurbish a science room, 2 classrooms and a staff room.
- 
Girraween National Park visitor facilities upgrade
 \$1.6 million in 2023-24 out of a \$7.9 million total spend for redevelopment of day use and camping areas at Girraween National Park near Stanthorpe.
- 
Mungindi Multi-Purpose Health Service
 \$1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$2.4 million total spend for the reconfiguration of existing residence and redundant medical practice buildings into 6 ensuite bedrooms for staff accommodation.
- 
Additional Electricity Bill Support
 \$1.483 billion in 2023-24 for electricity bill support, including a \$550 rebate for all Queensland households, a higher \$700 vulnerable households rebate and a \$650 small business rebate.
- 
Modern Manufacturing Initiative
 \$13 million in 2023-24 out of a \$153.5 million total spend to support businesses to adopt new technologies and improve their manufacturing processes. Part of the Queensland Jobs Fund and the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, delivered in partnership with the Australian Government.
- 
Queensland First Home Owner Grant
 \$72 million in 2023-24 to provide first-time home buyers buying or building a new home with grants to get into the market sooner.
- 
Raise, repair and retrofit homes, as part of the Resilient Homes Fund
 \$219.9 million in 2023-24 out of a \$381 million total spend to allow eligible homeowners to raise, repair or retrofit their homes to incorporate flood resilient design and materials to reduce the impacts of future flood events.
- 
Youth Co-responder teams
 \$30.1 million in 2023-24 out of a \$96.2 million total spend statewide over 4 years to continue to deliver and expand the youth co-responder model to deal with or divert high risk young people. This includes funding for a new co-responder team in Toowoomba. Part of the Youth Justice Investment.

Project key

-  Community wellbeing
-  Utilities
-  Health
-  Education
-  Statewide/region-wide
-  Transport and roads
-  Justice and safety
-  Government services
-  Recreation and culture
-  Relates to government election commitment



At a Glance

Total concessions in 2023-24	\$8.2B	Total capital program over 4 years	\$89B
Total health funding in 2023-24	\$25.8B	Jobs supported by the capital program in 2023-24	58,000
Investment in regional Queensland supported by coal royalties	over \$16B	Percentage of capital spend outside of greater Brisbane in 2023-24	65.5%
Additional funding for social housing infrastructure and housing and homelessness support over 5 years	over \$1.2B	Total capital investment to support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan over 4 years	\$19B

Good jobs. Better services. Great lifestyle.

More jobs in more industries

Good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries

Queensland is building on its advantages in traditional and emerging industries that support good, secure jobs. The Queensland Government's economic strategy will help Queensland businesses to take advantage of these opportunities and grow the economy.



Better services

Deliver even better services right across Queensland

A growing economy will allow the government to deliver better services across the state, including in education, justice and social services. High-quality services improve the lives of Queenslanders and help everyone to participate fully in our economy and our community.

Protecting Queenslanders' lifestyle

Protect and enhance our Queensland lifestyle as we grow

Our great Queensland lifestyle will be protected while the economy grows. The Queensland Government is investing in crucial infrastructure to support our growing population, reducing cost-of-living pressures and taking care of our natural environment.



Images supplied courtesy of:
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.
Queensland Ambulance Service.
Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training.